

DECEMBER CROP REPORT ISSUED

MICHIGAN WHEAT AVERAGE IS
17 PER CENT ABOVE THAT
OF NATION.

An increase of nearly one million acres of rye sown in the United States, and a condition of wheat in Michigan seventeen per cent better than the average for the United States are the predominating features of the December crop report issued by Verne H. Church, Agricultural Statistician, U. S. Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates and H. H. Halladay, State Commissioner of Agriculture. The report was delayed in order that the revision of crop acreages for 1919, 1920 and 1921 in accordance with the information furnished in the 1919 census could be completed by the United States Crop Reporting Board. The average farm price of leading crops and the average wages paid, in comparison with one year ago, are included in the report.

The average of winter wheat is five per cent greater than that sown last year, and amounts to 923,000. The weather has been generally favorable throughout the fall and early winter and, while much of the crop was sown later than usual, it has made a normal growth. The condition is rated at 93 per cent, three per cent above the ten year average and four per cent better than on the same date one year ago. Hessian fly is reported from a number of counties but is not as widely distributed as last year. The United States acreage is 44,293,000, which is slightly under the revised estimate for last year. The condition for the country as a whole is only 76 per cent, due to the extremely poor outlook in portions of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and other western states.

The acreage sown this year to rye is estimated to be 653,000, or the same as that of last year. While some counties report an increased acreage others show a corresponding decrease. The outlook is generally good throughout the state, and the average of reports received from correspondents is 94 per cent, one per cent better than last year and two points above the ten year average for December 1.

There is a marked increase in the acreage for the country as a whole the gain being estimated at 22.6 per cent. This unusual change is due to heavy plantings in the northwestern or spring wheat states. The condition for the United States is 92.2 per cent.

The percentage of fall plowing done is 34, as compared with 27 last year, weather conditions being favorable for that work up to and even after December 1, except for brief intervals.

Wages paid to men hired by the month, including board, averaged \$34 as compared with \$53 in 1920. Without board, they were \$51 and \$75, respectively. Harvest labor, by the day, with board, dropped from \$4.10 in 1920 to \$2.00 in 1921; and from \$4.95 to \$2.30 where board was not included. Common day labor dropped from \$3.30 with board to \$2.00; and from \$4.15 without board to \$2.60.

The following were the average prices paid for leading crops on December 1, 1921, and December 1, 1920 in Michigan:

Crop	1921	1920
Corn	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.82
Wheat	1.04	2.09
Oats	.36	.48
Barley	.57	.87
Rye	.70	1.30
Buckwheat	.78	1.09
Potatoes	.95	.92
Hay	13.00	21.00
Beans	2.40	2.50

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Hoffman and children, George and June, of Alma were New Years guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wasson.

Dr. Stanley Brown of St. Charles spent the past week at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown. Mrs. Sarah Ross is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. T. R. Morse.

The annual meeting of the Gratiot County Chapter American Red Cross was held at the court house in Ithaca Wednesday, January 4.

The Gleaners held a regular meeting Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Weaver just east of town.

Harold Beebe returned the last of the week to the music conservatory at the Northwestern University at Chicago.

Mrs. E. J. Warren of St. Johns spent last week with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. McArthur.

RIVERDALE

Mr. and Mrs. B. Wood of Saginaw were guests of Lyle Nelson and wife last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rice of Alma were guests of Mrs. Julia Rice last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brownridge have been spending the past two weeks with their son Dr. Garnet Brownridge and wife of Stanton.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard Hopkins entertained relatives from Alma and Ann Arbor over the week end.

William McGee of Pontiac was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Webb last week.

Miss Reta Green returned to Detroit Tuesday morning after spending the past ten days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green.

Mrs. Nettie Rose has returned to Belding after spending the Christmas holidays with her son Glenn and wife.

Mrs. R. LaMay entertained relatives from Shepherd and Lansing last week.

J. Rundio was in Alma Friday on business.

Mrs. Julia Rice has returned from her three weeks' visit with her son Charles and wife of Pontiac.

Roy King was home from Detroit last week.

Miss Freda Bradley spent the week end with her cousin Miss Leone Talon of St. Louis.

Harry Farmer of Stanton was in town Thursday on business.

Miss Reta Green spent the week end in Alma, a guest of Mrs. Milo Langworthy.

Julius Moblo of Flint spent several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moblo.

Miss Lillian Horton was home from Reed City last week.

Miss Mary Holland visited friends in Alma last Thursday.

Mrs. Clair Sturtevant and children were guests of Mrs. John Hall, southwest of town, for several days last week.

Jack Moblo and Julius Moblo were in Alma and St. Louis Friday.

Mrs. Clair Reid and daughter Margaret returned to Davinson Thursday after spending the holiday season with Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hicks.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cleland of Lansing were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moblo last Tuesday.

Mrs. Oliver Birdsell of near Clare is here caring for her mother, Mrs. Mary Hyde, who is still very ill.

Mrs. Brackson Robart spent the week end with relatives at St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hagerman and on Floyd of Alma spent Sunday at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Gould.

D. Snider visited friends in Detroit last week.

James McDonald of Saginaw was in town Tuesday on business.

Dr. and Mrs. Highfield spent New Years with Dr. and Mrs. Parkhurst at the Park House in St. Louis.

Roy Strong spent the Christmas holidays with his brother Ross of Shepherdville.

Mrs. Norman Brownridge has accepted the position as clerk at the postoffice.

Miss Georgia Coenrod of Alma was a week end guest of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Smith.

Mrs. Cora Nunn spent several days last week with her son George of near Ithaca.

Miss Vera Valance was home from Alma over Sunday.

Mrs. Nettie Rose spent Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. Wm. Webb, north of town.

Walter Robart spent the past week with his brother Cecil of St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Owen, formerly of Riverdale, are spending the winter at St. Augustine, Florida.

The Misses Ruth Van Alstine and Mabel Stambaugh have returned to Flint after spending the holiday season with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leiter visited relatives at Six Lakes over Sunday.

Mrs. Jessie Lapage visited friends near Shepherd last week.

Buhl Sadler of Alma visited friends in this vicinity last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harvey entertained relatives from Shepherd last Sunday.

Leo Stacey and Clark Schneppe have returned to their school duties at Ferris Institute, Big Rapids.

R. E. Lovejoy of Grand Rapids was in town last week on business.

Mrs. Carrie Williams and Mrs. Ervin Ditto and daughter Jane, west of town, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Rose last Thursday.

Miss Dagmar Van Alstine has returned to Mt. Pleasant, Normal.

Mrs. Earl Winters of Alma visited relatives in this vicinity Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Nunn, of Ithaca, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Croton and children, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Croton, southeast of town, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nunn and sons Robert and Howard of Riverdale were guests of Mrs. Cora Nunn for New Years dinner.

Mrs. E. B. Rockwell, north of Elwell, spent Monday and Tuesday with Mrs. E. M. Highfield.

Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Kates, Mr. and Mrs. John Burkheiser, Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Carney, the Misses Blanche and Frances Dickinson and Allen Highfield of Alma were guests of Dr. and Mrs. E. M. Highfield Monday evening.

TOWN LINE

Mr. and Mrs. John Shoemaker and family entertained Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Downs of Elwell Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wiley and children spent Sunday with relatives at Riverdale.

Eliza Hoyt and John Whitcraft attended the dance at Ed O'Bryant's near Forest Hill Tuesday night.

Mrs. Ivah Whitcraft called on friends in Alma one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Barry and family entertained their daughter Margaret and friend Miss Wernette of Saginaw over Saturday and Sunday. They returned to their work Monday.

Miss Mary Barry has been assisting in L. N. Baker's store during her vacation home from Mt. Pleasant, Normal.

The Misses Margaret, Mary, Beatrice, Catherine and Loretta Barry and brother Gilbert spent Sunday evening with the family of Fred Ball who is entertaining his mother and sister of Champaign, Illinois.

Miss Grace Packer spent her vacation with friends in Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Johnson and children of Elwell spent New Years with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Johnson.

Mrs. Nettie Osborn spent the week end with her cousin, Mrs. John Shoemaker, and family.

We would be pleased to show you samples of Canaan coal. Brown-Ward Co., phone 27-6046.

Aprons and House Frocks



THE sensible overall apron, that entirely covers the dress or takes its place, has been rechristened with various more picturesque but less appropriate names, as "lunglows" aprons, "kitchennette" dresses, and so on. But these new garments often contrive to be very pretty and they help to take away the little bitter taste that still lingers in wholesome housework for women who are unaccustomed to what is good for them. With all the new appliances for relieving the housewife, the next generation may see aprons graduated into the class of pastime clothes, with names that reveal the change.

These house dresses and aprons are so cleverly designed and made, by people who manufacture them, and are so inexpensive that it is seldom worth while to make them at home. The materials used are the heavier grades of gingham, chambray, percale and other

cottons, with cretonne a favorite for decoration. Apron aprons of this material, with cape to match, are among the pretty new offerings that make working clothes a joy. The truth is that these useful dresses and aprons, as they are made now, are becoming and charming. They are cheery, not to say gay.

A good model, in colored chambray with white collar and cuffs, is shown in the picture. There are many very useful fast colors to be had in chambray, always pretty with a touch of white or a contrasting color. This model has large crescent-shaped pockets and the regulation length in sleeves—short enough to be out of the way.

Julia Bottomley
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WEEKDAY THROUGH SERVICE
To Jacksonville and
FLORIDA
and
St. Petersburg
Via Cincinnati and the L. & N. R. R. in
THE SOUTHLAND

Going	Returning
7:35 A. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 10:50 P. M.
8:45 A. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 9:25 P. M.
12:30 P. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 5:45 P. M.
6:00 P. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 11:55 A. M.
7:00 A. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 9:15 P. M.
8:30 A. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 7:25 P. M.
9:45 A. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 8:20 P. M.
7:00 P. M. Lv. Jacksonville City	Ar. 11:00 A. M.

Requests for reservations are invited and may be addressed to any Ticket Agent of the Pennsylvania System, or to M. F. Quaintance, Acting Division Passenger Agent, Pennsylvania Building, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Pennsylvania System

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Kettle Roasts lb.	12c-15c	Herring, lb	10c
Round Steak, lb.	20c	Cheese, Full cream, lb	28c
Hamburger steak, lb.	15c	Kansas Bread flour, best quality short patent per bbl.	\$8.00
Pork Steak, lb.	14c	per sack	\$1.05
Pork shanks, lb.	9c	Pastory flour, sack	90c
Pork in pickle, lb	10c-15c	5 lb. sack Prepared Pancake Flour	30c
Pork Sausage (home made) 15c		5 lbs. Granulated Meal	15c
Fresh pork in chunk, lb 11c-14c		Ginger Snaps, 2 lbs.	25c
Bacon, sugar cured, lean lb 25c		Butter crackers, best quality in box lots	12 1/2c
Smoked ham, half or whole, lb	25c	Macaroni 3 lbs	27c
Lard, home rendered, 5 and 10 lb lots	12c	Sugar, per cwt.	\$6.00
Smoke ham butts, 4-5 lbs, lb 15c		Honey in comb, lb	30c
Veal for stewing, good quality, lb	12c-15c	Syrup, cane and maple 2 1/2 can	35c
Veal chops, lb	25c-30c	Karo Syrup, 16 lb pail	50c
Spring chickens and fowls lb	25c-27c	Apple No. 10 can	50c
Corned beef, boneless, lb	18c	Lenox Soap, 5 bars	19c
Genuine Spring Lamb, chops, roasts and stews		Romanza bath tablets, 2 for 15c	

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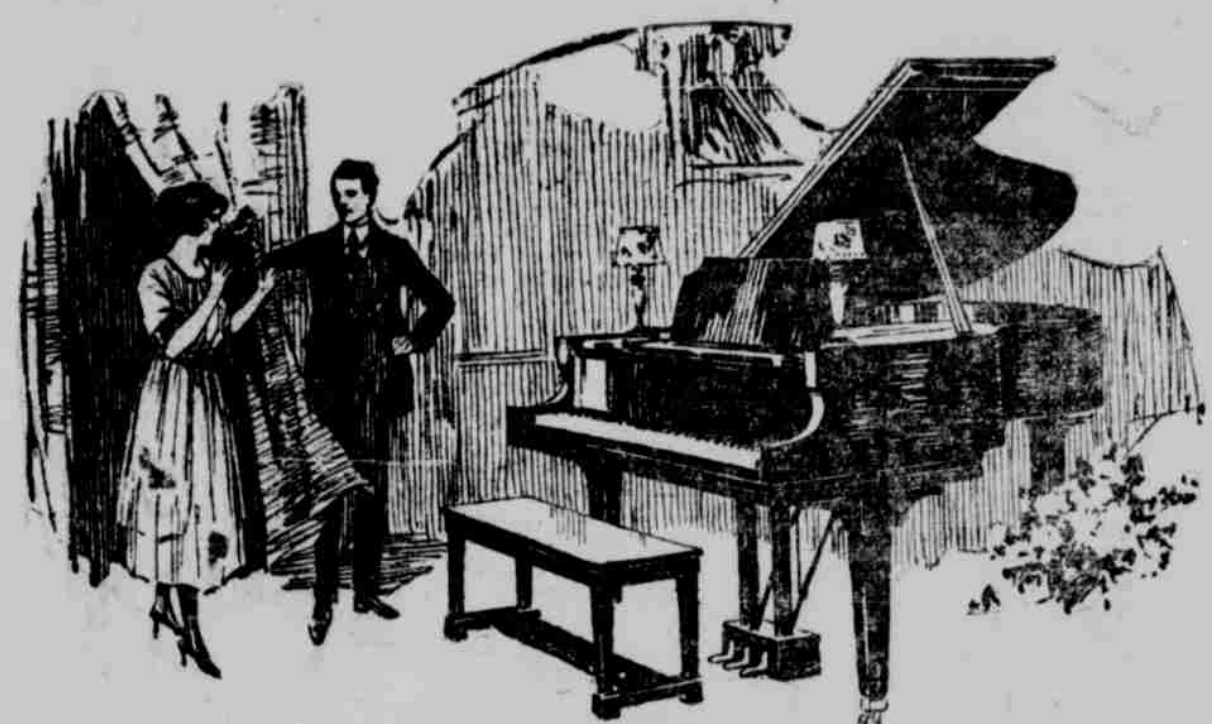
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The elegance, the dignity of the Lyon & Healy Apartment Grand Piano reflect a new charm on its surroundings. Often the room

seems transformed! It takes on a new sense of spaciousness, a new air of distinction.

The Apartment Grand is an index to the good taste of its possessor. Its presence in the home is an accepted mark of refinement and of culture.

So delightful is the musical quality—the tone—of the Apartment Grand that it is known throughout the musical world as the piano that "sings beneath the fingers."

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The Lyon & Healy is the only piano complete for every member of the family—the only piano a child can play properly! For it alone has pedals a child can reach. And the pedals control expression!

The Junior Unfolding Two-Level Pedal—the greatest piano improvement in fifty years—is an exclusive advantage of the Lyon & Healy Piano. Among others are the Candelabra, dainty twin electric candles, and the Silento, a unique practice clavier.

All that one could wish in clear, sweet, singing tone, in beauty of design and finish, the Apartment Grand gives you—in compact size—at moderate cost! Come in to see this exquisite instrument tomorrow. Or, better, let us place one in your home for your wife's approval. Her delight will make you glow with satisfaction.

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